

The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library

Vol. 53, No. 2

Summer 2003



Raymond and Susan Brochstein
Honored at Friends of Fondren Gala

A Letter to Friends

Dear Friends,

As my year as president draws to a close, I realize the great debt I owe to the entire Friends of Fondren Library board. What a remarkable group of people! We have had a great time throughout the year and have several successful events to boast of this spring.

In February, Charles Maynard chaired and presided over the Rice Authors' panel. Other panelists were Earl Black, Alan Grob, and Ed Whalen. Charles, with his dry wit, is always the perfect moderator.

The gala on April 26th, honoring Susan and Raymond Brochstein, was a truly elegant affair and was our second largest fund-raising event ever. Many thanks to Vicky and Lucas Elliot for chairing the event. Thanks also go to our long-time auctioneer Malcolm Gillis and to first-timer John Wolf, both of whom had the crowd in stitches.

The Association of Rice Alumni honored two of our board members on May 10, confirming what we already knew of their distinction and extraordinary service to Rice. Texas Anderson received the Meritorious Service Award and John Wolf, the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Georganna Barnes and Preston Frazier chaired the annual meeting on May 20th. Our post-dinner speaker, King Walters, discussed how scientists utilize the library and the new ways in which the library meets the needs of those scientists. Preston's test-tube centerpieces were a great hit... a wonderful way to finish up the year!

We will greatly miss the four board members who are retiring this summer: Texas Anderson, Georganna Barnes, Mary Catherine Miller and Michelle Shedd. These women have all contributed countless hours to the work of this hands-on board.

Finally, we welcomed one new member to the board this spring: Elizabeth Gillis, who hit the deck running! She lined up many of the auction items for the gala and arrived early Saturday morning to decorate, set up the auction display and place bookmarks in the programs.

We all look forward to another great year with Robins Brice as the new president of the Friends.

Sincerely,



Karen Hess Rogers

Fondren Library

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

The Friends

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

The Flyleaf

Founded October, 1950, *The Flyleaf* is published by the Friends of Fondren Library, MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892.

The Flyleaf is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. *The Flyleaf* is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at <http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/>.



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2003 Book Sale

Teddy Adams, event chairman, announced The Friends of Fondren Library Book Sale will be held October 24-26, 2003, in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center. The scheduled hours are listed below:

Friday, October 24

Members' Preview Book Sale
and Reception

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

*(Open to members of the Friends,
Rice faculty and staff only)*

Saturday, October 25

Book Sale

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26

Book Sale

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Friends have been collecting, sorting, pricing, and boxing books for almost two years in preparation for this much-anticipated event. Shoppers will find fiction, poetry, history, science, cookbooks, science fiction, children's books, music scores, mysteries, art, architecture, first editions, signed books and much more! Hardbacks will be priced at \$2, and paperbacks will be 50 cents. Better Books are priced individually.



Donations of books will be accepted until October 10. You can drop your books off at:
Star Motor Cars at 7000 Katy Road

- Monday – Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Call 713-868-6800 if you need directions.
- Please pack books in boxes rather than paper bags. If bags must be used, please double-bag.

Paid parking is available at several locations:

Central Campus Lot (underground at the Jones Graduate School)

Stadium

North Lot at Entrance 13
off of Rice Boulevard

You must use a credit card to access these lots.

Free parking is available west of the stadium.

Customers will be able to drive up to the west end of the Student Center and pick up books they have purchased.

For more information, please contact the Friends of Fondren office at 713-348-5157 or fofl@rice.edu.

Friends Honor 2002 Rice Authors

BY CHARLES D. MAYNARD, JR.

The Friends of Fondren hosts an annual presentation and reception to honor faculty, staff, alumni and Friends of Fondren who have published or edited books or journals, exhibited works of art in a one-person show, or composed musical works during the preceding year. In the friendly confines

of the Kyle Morrow Room at Fondren Library at its most recent such gathering in February, the Friends recognized those honored in attendance and enjoyed presentations by three authors.

Earl Black (Ph.D., Harvard University), the Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Political Science at Rice University, commented on his work, *The Rise of Southern Republicans*, published by Harvard Press, which he researched and co-authored with his twin brother, Merle Black (who, coincidentally, was hired at Emory University by our own David Minter, long-time Professor of English, Interim Librarian and former Rice University Provost). The Black brothers grew up in northeast Texas, witnessing first hand and chronicling the remarkable transformation of the southern electorate over the last 50 years from one that voted solidly Democratic to one that now reflects the entire political spectrum. In 1950, of 105 U.S. Representatives from the 11 southern states stretching from Virginia to Texas, 103 were Democrats, as were all southern



Earl Black, Alan Grob, Edward Whalen, Charles Maynard

Senators. This entrenched pattern of voting all but ensured a permanent Democratic majority in the Congresses. By the year 2000, the size of the Congressional delegation had grown to comprise nearly 30% of all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, but the composition of the combined delegations, totaling 131, had changed radically to 76 Republicans and 55 Democrats. A similar shift had occurred in the Senatorial delegations, where the Republicans hold a 13 to 9 majority.

Given the present composition of both houses of Congress, wherein the Republican party enjoys slim majorities, this transformation is directly responsible for the Republican ascendancy. Although they characterize the "growth of competitive two-party politics in the south [as the] biggest story of modern American party politics," the authors are quick to stress that it has not given rise to Republican dominance, but rather to an electorate divided into three components: conservative Republican adherents,

liberal Democratic adherents, and an independent moderate middle, now the battle ground and swing vote for both parties.

Dr. Black attributed the transformation in great part to the Reagan presidency, calling Mr. Reagan a "key figure" in that he "made the Republican party a comfort-

able institution for conservative southerners," drawing conservatives from the Democratic to the Republican party, but in numbers sufficient only to make southern politics competitive rather than dominated by one party. The independent, moderate middle is necessary for either party to win, party partisans not enough to do it alone for either major party. In his view, the outcome of the 2002 presidential election is confirmation that is "hard to overstate the national impact" of this transformation.

Long-time Rice Professor of English, Alan Grob (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin), discussed his recently published *A Longing Like Despair: Arnold's Poetry of Pessimism*. Consistent with the notion that Rice University is both a great teaching and a great research institution, Dr. Grob prefaced his remarks by saying that his "writing comes out of his teaching" and traced his interest in Arnold and his production of the book to the course of his career which necessitated his teaching of Victorian literature

upon his arrival at Rice although his major focus had been romantic literature that preceded it. In what he described as a "series of close readings of poems held together by two central ideas," Dr. Grob sketched the philosophical context in which Arnold worked, acknowledging his own approach to poetry "in philosophical terms."

He offered insights into Arnold's poetics, examining it against the backdrop of the philosophical pessimism espoused by Arthur Schopenhauer, Arnold's contemporary, who, among other post-Kantian philosophers, searched for ultimate reality in the face of the breakdown of religion. Whereas some romantics glorified nature as God, Schopenhauer spoke of a "blind striving will antithetical to our desires and interests," an observation not inconsistent with the theories of Darwin that emerged at the same time, abandoning more traditional teleological views of reality.

Drawing on his own readings of Freud, particularly his theory of anxiety, Dr. Grob suggested that Arnold's poetic insight was linked to his anxiety arising from the antithetical in human aspiration and experience. Citing his love poetry, which he described as "very unusual," generally either ending or beginning in loss, he discussed Arnold's series of Marguerite poems about Arnold's early love interest, whom he met in Switzerland prior to his marriage and whose real identity is unknown to this day. It is evident to Dr. Grob from Arnold's poetry that Arnold viewed their relationship as one doomed by differences, social or otherwise,

which made it impossible, recognizing frustration even in desire. In the poem from which the title of his book comes, Arnold likens mankind to islands in a common sea, separate though able to appreciate, contemplate and desire connection but appalled by the alien sea surrounding and cutting them off from one another. He focuses on the need for connection, suggesting that it once existed, even if only by virtue of a common dilemma, when he says "Oh might our margins meet again," recalling the imagery of John Donne but drawing a decidedly different conclusion, our "longings soon as kindled cooled." Interestingly, Dr. Grob attributed none of this frustration and anxiety to something so simple or superficial as Victorian propriety, finding much deeper meanings in Arnold's work.

The concluding presentation was made by Dr. Edward Whalen (Ph.D., Princeton University), the retired CFO of the University of Houston and a member of the Friends of Fondren. He described his book, *A Guided Tour of the United States Economy: Promises among the Perils*, as a "retirement project" with the twofold aim of maintaining his sanity and forestalling senility, and then proceeded to present a fascinating summary of his analyses of changes in the U.S. economy during the period coinciding with his working years, 1959 to 1999. Analyzing and explaining how national income statistics and the gross domestic product are calculated, he observed that during that same period there has been a twenty-fold increase in the latter from \$500,000,000 to

\$20,000,000,000 annually which, adjusted for inflation, still results in four-fold growth in the GNP. Again both avoiding and illustrating the dangers of drawing easy conclusions, he said that, even if one factors in the accompanying growth in population numbers, per capita production increased by two-and-a-half times during the same 40-year period.

In conclusion, he happily suggested that there is "no reason why this pattern of growth and increasing prosperity might not continue," asserting that the United States would remain a "remarkable engine of productivity" for years to come, welcome news as we approach what many hope to be the end of bear market correction and the eve of another bull market.

In responding to a question put to him at the conclusion of his remarks, he explained that, although national income statistics conceal what many perceive as increasing disparity in income levels, the number does not include transfer payments which directly impact the disparity and suggested that a "rising tide lifts all."

Following their formal presentations, each of the speakers responded to provocative and insightful questions from an appreciative audience before retiring to the reception that followed.

Rice is indeed both a great teaching and research institution as evidenced by the scholarly output of its faculty funds and alumni showcased each year for the Friends of Fondren Library. The Friends will again honor Rice authors, artists and composers with a presentation and reception open to the entire Rice community in February 2004.

The 2003 honorees and their most recent works:

Jeff Abbott	<i>Black Jack Point</i>
Nomy Arpaly	<i>Unprincipled Virtue: An Inquiry Into Moral Agency</i>
Yildiz Bayazitoglu	<i>Proceedings of the ASME Heat Transfer Division 2002</i> , vols. 1-7
Philip Bedient	<i>Hydrology and Floodplain Analysis</i> , 3rd ed.
Earl Black	<i>The Rise of Southern Republicans</i>
John Boles	Ed., <i>The Journal of Southern History</i>
Logan Browning	Ed., <i>SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900</i>
Jane Chance	<i>Tolkien the Medievalist</i>
Yoosoon Chang	Ed., <i>Agnes Blannbekin, Viennese Beguine: Life and Revelations</i>
H. Tristram Engelhardt	<i>Time Series Analysis</i>
Jim Faubion	<i>Bioethics and Moral Content: National Traditions of Health Care Morality</i>
	<i>The Shadows and Lights of Waco: Millennialism Today</i>
	Ed., <i>The Ethics of Kinship: Ethnographic Inquiries</i>
Stephen Fox	<i>The Architecture of Phillip Johnson</i>
Ombretta Frau	<i>Taccuino di Harvard</i>
Jennifer M. George	<i>Understanding and Managing Organizational Behavior</i> , 3rd ed.
Ron Goldman	<i>Pyramid Algorithms</i>
Beatriz Gonzalez-Stephan	<i>Fundaciones: Canon, Historia y cultura Nacional, La Historiografía literaria del liberalismo hispanoamericano del siglo XIX</i>
Jean-Joseph Claude Goux	<i>The Enigma of Gift and Sacrifice</i>
John Graves	<i>The Earth Remains Forever: Generations at a Crossroads</i>
Alan Grob	<i>A Longing Like Despair</i>
Keith Hamm	Ed., <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i>
Marian Hillar	<i>Michael Servetus Intellectual Giant, Humanist, and Martyr</i>
Robert Bradley Jackson	<i>The Earth Remains Forever: Generations at a Crossroads</i>
Dean James	<i>Posted to Death</i>
Darra Keeton	"Theory of Forgetting" Islip Art Museum, Sept. 25-Nov. 17
Ken Kennedy	<i>Optimizing Compilers for Modern Architectures</i>
	Ed., <i>The Sourcebook of Parallel Computing</i>
Marek Kimmel	<i>Branching Processes in Biology</i>
Stephen L. Klineberg	<i>Houston's Economic and Demographic Transformation</i>
Jeffrey J. Kripal	<i>Crossing Boundaries: Essays on the Ethical Status of Mysticism</i>
Elizabeth Wittenmyer Lewis	<i>Queen of the Confederacy: The Innocent Deceits of Lucy Holcombe Pickens</i>
Randall McCabe	"New Paintings" Joan Wich & Co. Gallery, April 6 - May 11
K Krueger McDonald	Ed., <i>SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900</i>
Thomas McEvilley	<i>The Shape of Ancient Thought</i>
Larry McIntire	Ed., <i>Annals of Biochemical Engineering</i>
Susan Keech McIntosh	<i>Fouilles a sincu bara, un site de L Age de Fer dans la Moyenne Vallee du Senegal</i>
Linda M. McNeil	Ed., <i>American Educational Research Journal</i>
Helena Michie	Ed., <i>Nineteenth-Century Geographies: The Transformation of Space from the Victorian Age to the American Century</i>
Atieno Odhiambo	Ed., <i>The Challenges of History and Leadership in Africa: the Essays of Bethwell Allan Ogot</i>
Joon Park	<i>Time Series Analysis</i>
Robert L. Patten	Ed., <i>SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900</i>
John Polking	<i>Differential Equations with Boundary Value Problems</i>
M. Rafael Salaberry	Ed., <i>The L2 Acquisition of Tense-aspect Morphology</i>

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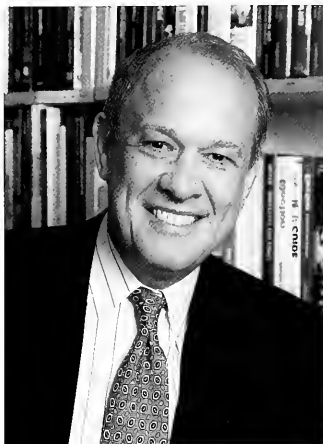
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Ed., *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*
Ed., *The Grammar of Causation and Interpersonal Manipulation*
Unlocking the Assets: Energy and the Future of Central Asia and Caucasus
Spory o kryptykę literacką w Dwudziestolecu międzywojennym
Ed., *International Journal of Non-Linear Mechanics*
Ed., *Journal of Probabilistic Engineering Mechanics*
Witold Gombrowicz, 2nd ed.
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The Spider's Touch
Enigma of Gift and Sacrifice

FOFL Announces 2003 Guest Lecturer

The Friends are pleased to announce that the 2003 Distinguished Guest Lecturer will be Alex Jones who is Lecturer in Public Policy and Director of the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy. He covered the press for *The New York Times* from 1983–1992 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 for his articles on the collapse of the Bingham family's newspaper empire. In 1991, he co-authored (with his wife and fellow journalist Susan E. Tift) *The Patriarch: The Rise and Fall of the Bingham Dynasty*. In 1992, he left the *Times* to work on *The Trust: The Private and Powerful Family Behind the New York Times* (also co-authored with Tift in 1999), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award.

From 1993–1997 Jones was host of National Public Radio's "On The Media." He is currently the host and Executive Editor of PBS's "Media Matters." In 1998, Jones and Tift were jointly named Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism at Duke University. Jones has served three times as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize competition. In 1981–82 he was Nieman Fellow at Harvard. He is on the advisory boards of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, the International Center for Journalists, the Committee of Concerned Journalists, and the Center for Strategic International



Studies. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University.

The lecture will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 19, 2003, at the Shell Auditorium, Jones Graduate School of Management. *The Patriarch* and *The Trust* will be available for purchase and Mr. Jones will be available to sign them during the reception following the lecture.

Comments on *The Trust*

"With unconditional access to Times archives, Tift and Jones have erected what promises to be a lasting history of the titanic media clan, deftly mixing personal stories of the German-Jewish family in moments of official glory and tawdry embarrassment, with the definitively public sagas of the paper itself."—*Publishers Weekly*

"In seamless authoritative prose, with rich, uncluttered detail, precise characterizations and a solid sense of historical context and social dynamics, the authors relate how four generations of Ochses and Sulzbergers built the *Times*."—*The New York Times*

"Never has the good gray Times seemed so colorful--and human."—*Dallas Morning News*

Comments on *The Patriarch*

"The Patriarch should stand up as the definitive text on the matter. . . . A compelling yarn."—*The Boston Globe*

"The story of the Bingham's disintegration has been told repeatedly over the last few years, but now comes what will no doubt be the last word—*The Patriarch*, an uncommonly well researched and elegantly written book."—*The Washington Post*

"Through prodigious research, Tift and Jones have written the best kind of family history—one so packed with archival fact and telling anecdotes that a reader can be excused for believing at times he or she understands the Bingham far better than they seem to have understood themselves."—*The Los Angeles Times*

Raymond and Susan Brochstein Honored at Friends of Fondren Gala

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, the Friends of Fondren Library again hosted "Fondren Saturday Night," its twenty-third in a series of festive evenings to raise funds for the library. The Friends were delighted to honor Raymond and Susan Brochstein.

Lucas and Vicky Elliot, gala co-chairs, were assisted by committee members Texas Anderson, Iris Ballew, Elizabeth Gillis, Margaret Jordan, Harriet Latimer, Shirley Redwine, Cathryn Rodd Selman, Karen Rogers, Lee Seureau, and Mary Ellen Wilson. This group contributed countless hours in planning, obtaining auction items, decorating and undecorating.



Susan and Raymond Brochstein



Lucas and Vicky Elliot



Steven and Deborah Brochstein Hecht



Bob Clarke, Linda Anderson, Puddin Clarke, Kent Anderson

In keeping with the recent tradition of a new gala venue every year, the committee chose The Warwick for the 2003 event. Guests began arriving at 7:00 p.m. to discover a plethora of silent auction items: Rice sports memorabilia, dinners at fine restaurants, framed art, tickets to cultural events, books, decorative items, and much more. Guests entering the ballroom for dinner were delighted by owl centerpieces surrounded by candles—the inspiration of Vicky Elliot and donated by her mother, Tassie Nicandros.

Karen Hess Rogers, president of the Friends of Fondren, introduced Raymond and Susan Brochstein and described their contributions to Rice:

Raymond Brochstein received his B.A. in architecture from Rice in 1955, followed by a B.S. in the same field in 1956. He is now president of Brochsteins, Inc., a manufacturer of custom-designed commercial furniture and architectural woodwork. As a Rice alumnus, Raymond has served as class chair and as a member of the Rice University Fund Council. He also served as chairman of Rice's Architectural Advisory Council and is the 1996 recipient of the Design for Excellence award from the Rice Design Alliance. Susan grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and graduated from Sophie Newcomb College where

she studied literature. She has worked with the Women's Institute for many years, while also supporting the couple's efforts at Rice and attending to their two now-grown children, Benjamin and Deborah.



Albert and Elizabeth Kidd & Tassie Nicandros



John and Linda Hagerman



Malcolm and Elizabeth Gillis



Larry and Karen George, Bryan and Laura Emerson

Mr. Brochstein served on the Rice University Board of Trustees from July 1, 1998 until June 30, 2002. He served on the Academic Affairs Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee and University Advancement Committee (now called the Resource Development & Public Affairs Committee.) He continues to serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee at the request of Mr. Barnett. He also continues to serve as chairman of the Campus Art Subcommittee and the Design Subcommittee, which are subcommittees of Buildings and Grounds.

The Brochsteins are Rice Associates and are members of the William Marsh Rice and 1891 Charter Societies. Raymond and Susan have honored Rice University with a very generous gift of approximately 30 acres of land on South Main Street on which to build the new Library Service Center. The Brochstein's gift provides the site for a new facility making possible safe, convenient off-campus book shelving, while affording the opportunity to redesign Fondren to meet the current and future needs of the Rice community.

The site is only 5.1 miles south of the main Rice campus. Planning for the Library Service Center was incorporated into the larger process of developing a master plan for this "south campus." Future Rice "residents" of the south campus—when identified—will have the benefit of this initial overall site planning as they develop their own buildings on the new campus.



*Location of South Campus: 1. South Campus Plot
2. Rice University Main Campus*



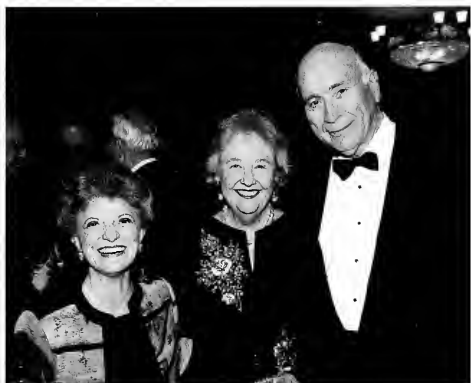
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Treasures In The Attic

PART V

THE IMPERIAL EDICTS

By ALAN HARRIS BATH

The treasures in all our attics all have stories – “Early Matrimonial” furniture, children’s toys, teenager’s trophies – but few can match in history and adventure the tale of the imperial edicts to be found in the vault of the Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library.

At the end of the nineteenth century and again a few years later, Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary bestowed edicts, statements of nobility, on Karoly Kuffner, a wealthy Hungarian landowner, brewer and cattle raiser. It is said that Baron de Kuffner – as he and his heirs were now to be known – received the honor as reward for the quality of beef provided to the imperial table. Experts have described the edicts as rare documents, hand-lettered on vellum and “bound in tooled leather, lavishly embellished with the Hapsburg crest, in enamels and gold, banded in chased gold, set with topaz, pearl, ruby, and turquoise stones.”

the Baron met Tamara de Lempicka, a painter, whose fame was then growing, both as an artist and as a leading member of the Parisian avant-garde. The baron was soon fascinated by both



The leather bound edict, measuring 15 1/2" x 12", with the seal and wooden case

Upon his father’s death the title and the edicts passed to his son, Baron Raoul de Kuffner, as did one of the largest landholdings in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In Paris, sometime around 1928,



Tamara de Lempicka in the 1930s. Photo: Cecil Beaton

the artist and her work. He became an avid collector of her paintings and, in 1934, collected the artist in marriage, following her divorce and the death of his first wife.

Tamara de Lempicka was born in Moscow of a Polish mother and Russian father and raised in St. Petersburg. She married Tadeusz de Lempicki shortly before the Russian revolution. Both joined the flight of Russian refugees to Paris, arriving in 1918 with little prospects and less money. Tamara entered art school and by 1920 was beginning to sell her portraits, done in a style that would come to be known as "Art Deco." Her fame and notoriety reached their zenith in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Early on Baroness de Kuffner recognized the threat of Hitler's Germany and convinced her husband to start quietly moving the wealth of his Hungarian estates to safer grounds – first to Switzerland and then, bit by bit, to the United States. In this secret transfer were numerous art objects, china, books, and antiques, including the imperial edicts.

The de Kuffners left Europe and settled in New York, after a brief fling in California where Tamara was touted as "Hollywood's favorite artist." The Baron died in 1962 and shortly thereafter Tamara moved to Houston to be near her grandchildren and daughter, Kizette, who was married to Harold Foxhall, chief geologist for Dow Chemical. The edicts came with her. In 1966 Tamara de Kuffner donated the two edicts to Rice University. They remained in the vault of the Treasurer's office until 1972 when they were transferred to the



*Portrait of a Man
(Incomplete) (Portrait
of Tadeusz de
Lempicki), 1928*

Woodson rare book holdings. The Baroness later moved to Cuernavaca, Mexico, where she died in 1980.

Why Rice? Perhaps no more reason than a wish, born of propinquity, to enrich the university's cultural holdings. When she first came to Houston the Baroness occupied a suite at the Warwick. Later she moved to the Regency House on Westheimer, still close enough to the campus and its people and activities to stimulate her interest.

Tamara de Kuffner made other gifts to Rice – rare books, furniture, china, and silver from her husband's estates. These remain in various locations around the campus. But that's another story.



Autoportrait (Tamara in the Green Bugatti), 1925

Bookmark

What is the Fondren Library staff reading?

The Flyleaf editors recently queried the staff at Fondren about current or recent “good reads.” Below are the intriguing results, and you’ll be pleased to know that most of these books are in the Fondren collection. Happy reading!

Elizabeth Baber, Head, Database Management

Ray, Jeanne. *Eat Cake*
Ruth is a middle-aged housewife whose fantasy life consists of dreaming up exotic cakes. With a loving husband, a teen-aged daughter who seldom speaks to her, and a divorced mother afraid to live alone after her house was robbed, her home is full. But then her husband loses his job, and her father breaks both arms. Although her parents hate each other, Ruth has no choice but to take in her helpless father. When money problems begin to loom, Ruth’s delectable cakes offer a possible solution. Told in a light and whimsical fashion, this is a delightful tale with a satisfying ending.

Kim Williams, Library Receiving Clerk, Acquisitions

The book I’ve just finished reading is *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling. It’s been a long wait for me because I read the fourth book (*Goblet of Fire*) about 3 years ago. With Ms. Rowling taking her time in writing this book instead of worrying about deadlines, the quality of her writing has made this my favorite of all the Harry Potter books. I won’t tell what the book is about because the reviews have told a bit of it already, and I don’t want to ruin it for the people who haven’t read it yet.

Brent Auerbach, Circulation Assistant

Woodward, Bob and Scott Armstrong. *The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court*
The Brethren is a historical, non-fiction account of our nation’s Supreme Court. Intensively researched and written in 1979, the book details Court proceedings from 1969-1975 (the first years of the Burger Court). What is most fascinating about the book is the candid look it gives the reader of the Justices: the personalities, the bickering, the power plays, and the political agendas. For anyone interested in learning more about civil rights, the seventies, the government, and how some of the country’s greatest minds think (or often, don’t think), I recommend this book.

Shirley Wetzel, Cataloging Librarian

Charles H. Harris and Louis R. Sadler. *The Archaeologist was a Spy: Sylvanus G. Morley and the Office of Naval Intelligence*

As a graduate student in anthropology, I was taught the credo of the American Anthropological Association: “Do no damage--either to those whom we study or to the reputation of our professional community ... Do not deceive...” Whenever I heard accusations that anthropological field workers were really government agents, I scoffed at the idea. Scientists would never do such a thing! This fascinating book proved me wrong. During World War I, Sylvanus Morley, a prominent Mayanist, was recruited by the Naval Intelligence Office to gather intelligence in Central America on German activities. He was not only a spy, the authors state that he “was arguably the finest American spy of World War I.” Several of his colleagues were also involved in clandestine activities, with more or less success: J. Alden Mason said of his experience that he was “the worst spy in the world. I spilled the beans and broke [our] cover.” This book is both enlightening and entertaining.



Mary Ann Clark, User Services
Associate, Reference

Shlain, Leonard. *The Alphabet versus the Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image*. Shlain's basic premise is that writing has the pernicious effect of fostering a patriarchal outlook such that post-literate societies diminish feminine values and women's power in the culture. At 432 pages this is a wide-ranging book that begins with our hunter/gatherer ancestors and explores the development of western society into the 21st century with short excursions into Asian and Muslim cultures. I'm only about half way into this work but find it both intriguing and distressing. My two major complaints are his tendency to assume causality where it may or may not exist and his disregard for non-Eurasian cultures.

Chuck Henry, Vice President and CIO

This month I'm reading three books that may seem disconnected in theme and approach but are actually complementary: *Prehistoric Art: the Symbolic Journey of Humankind* by Randall White; *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age* by Bill McKibbin; and *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas* (Elaine Pagels).

Helen Gibbs, Records Specialist,
Database Management

I'm reading *Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* by Brady Udall. It is the story of an orphan Indian boy. The book begins with his surviving a United States postal jeep being driven over his head. I am enjoying reading this book despite the fact that very few good things happen to this child.

Alexis Latner, User Services Associate,
Circulation

I'm re-reading Dorothy Sayers' *Gaudy Night*. Her writing is amazing! The opening scenes are lush and leisurely - the Oxford setting is idyllic and academic - but there's a fugue of dark, tense notes arising from Harriet Vane's checkered history and the fact that this is the first time she's returned to her alma mater. The effect on the reader is riveting. (Harriet's name, and Harry Potter's, may owe something to etymology from the word "harrowing"....)

Debra Cosby, Office Assistant,
Technical Services

Every Breath You Take by Ann Rule is a story of obsession, revenge and murder. Sheila Blackthorne divorced her abusive husband and remarried. She and her new husband had quadruplets. Fearing her ex-husband, the family moved from Texas to Florida where she was brutally murdered with the toddlers in the room. Ann Rule never fails to write a page-turner and this was no exception. This book can be found in the new leisure reading collection on the first floor of Fondren.



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Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars now for upcoming Friends of Fondren Library events.

Sunday, October 19, 2003

The Friends present Alex Jones as the 2003 Distinguished Guest Lecturer. The lecture will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Shell Auditorium, Jones Graduate School.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 24-26, 2003

The biennial book sale will be held in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center. Details inside!

Saturday, November 8, 2003

Friends of Fondren Library and Rice Engineering Alumni will host their annual brunch and awards program at 9:30 a.m. in the Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library.



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